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Over four decades ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made a prayer that one day his children would be able to grow up in a world without hate and prejudice. Every time Dr. King felt the pain of his children trembling with fear of great persecution, limited rights, and cruel codes of segregation, his “I Have a Dream” speech became an even stronger message for positive change in the world. It is for this message, and especially every innocent child untarnished by society’s ways, that Dr. King dedicated his entire life.

Society often places teenagers on a degrading scale, but I know that despite our youth, we can make a difference in the world. As a son of his cause, I find myself wondering how I might further Dr. King’s message.

Foremost, I would try to begin in my own family. Unfortunately, American families are becoming more troubled with an increasingly individualistic society. Often, I find it hard to spend time with my family because everyone is always running one way or another. On my part, I can weed out unnecessary distractions to focus in on spending more time with my family. When we are together, some times pointless disputes steal what little time we have together. In these times, I strive to be a more mature person as Dr. King calls us to be: lending a helping hand where needed, being patient when I speak with family members, forgiving any faults, and ultimately doing whatever it takes to promote the necessary family values, especially love.

Following Dr. King’s example, I will not be afraid to speak out against the plagues of hatred and neglect within the community. I know first-hand the joy of bringing food to the hungry and clothing to the poor, or offering a smile and spending time with

the elderly in a nursing home. I will always strive to do these things within the service club at school. Yet, I can do more by casting off selfish ways, and sharing what I have through the mission money collections. With abortion prevalent in society, I have attempted to help expectant mothers-in-need through the Pro-Life Club at school. But more importantly, I can better try to demonstrate respect for life through all my actions, rather than only at a certain times. Finally, I need to break down any barriers of prejudice that deceive me. Without doing so, I can never bring unity to the community.

I attest to you now that the little things we do, no matter our age, truly make a big difference for our brothers and sisters. If everyone did just a little on their part, together we could make a dream come true, giving way to a world free from the enslaving chains of hatred and a world with endless peace, love, and equality. Truly, each and every small step for man becomes a giant leap for mankind.